

Claims

1. A method for distributing a short message to a video user, according to which
 - 5 a) the short message for a video user is first sent to a distribution center for short messages,
 - b) the short message is forwarded from the distribution center to a video control device for control of the services of a video user,
 - 10 c) the short message is forwarded from the video control device to the terminal of the video user.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1.
characterized in that
 - 15 a) The IP protocol is used for the transmission of data between the video control device and the terminal of the video user,
 - b) a short message is first forwarded from the video control device to the terminal of the video user if the terminal
20 is online.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that
PSTN call numbers are used for addressing the video user
25 for which the short message is meant.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that
an IP address or URI is used for addressing the video
30 user for which the short message is meant.
5. A video control device for controlling the services of video users,
 - a) with the video user being able to subscribe to the short
35 message service

- b) with all the video users that have subscribed to the short message service being logged on at a short message distribution center, in that it makes the addresses of these video users known to the distribution center, with the entry of the named addresses in the distribution center taking place in such a way that the distribution center forwards short messages to the named video users, exclusively to the video control device,
- c) with a message for a video user arriving from the distribution center being forwarded to the terminal of the video user.
6. The video control device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that
- a) it identifies the actual user of the terminal
- b) a short message arriving from the distribution center for a video user is forwarded to the terminal of the video user only if the actual user is identical to the video user.
7. The video control device as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that
- it forwards a short message originating from one of its video users to the distribution center if the short message is addressed to a video user that is not within its management area.
8. The video control device as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that
- It forwards a short message originating from one of its video users directly to the terminal of the addressed video user if the short message is addressed to a video user that lies within its management area.
9. A distribution center for short messages that

- a) includes a logon device at which the video user can be logged on with the aid of a video control device that controls the services of the video user,
- b) includes a distribution device that forwards incoming
5 messages addressed to such logged-on users to the video control device.